

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, and 25-32 and substitute claims 3, 5, 19 and 21 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Amended) A signal processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ for processing a plurality of received signals obtained by receiving a signal or signals from at least one signal source through a plurality of reception apparatus, comprising:

first means for decomposing each of the received signals into a plurality of different frequency band signals;

second means for calculating cross correlation functions between the different frequency band signals originating from two different ones of said reception apparatus for individual corresponding frequency bands for individual possible combinations of said reception apparatus;
and

third means for estimating at least one direction or at least one position of the at least one signal source based on the cross correlation functions;

wherein said third means includes:

maximum value detection means for determining delay times with which the cross correlation functions exhibit maximum values for the individual frequency bands for the individual combinations of the reception apparatus and setting the determined delay times as candidate delay times; and

estimation means for estimating the number and the ~~direction or direction or the position~~
~~or positions at least one direction or the at least one position~~ of the at least one signal source or
sources so that the candidate delay times may be provided most consistently.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Amended) A signal processing apparatus ~~according to claim 4,~~ for processing a
plurality of received signals obtained by receiving a signal or signals from at least one signal
source through a plurality of reception apparatus, comprising:

first means for decomposing each of the received signals into a plurality of different
frequency band signals;

second means for calculating cross correlation functions between the different frequency
band signals originating from two different ones of said reception apparatus for individual
corresponding frequency bands for individual possible combinations of said reception apparatus;
and

third means for estimating at least one direction or at least one position of the at least one
signal source based on the cross correlation functions;

wherein said third means includes;

normalization means for normalizing the cross correlation functions for the individual
frequency bands;

addition means for adding the cross correlation functions normalized for the individual
combinations of said reception apparatus over all or some plurality of ones of the frequency
bands; and

estimation means for estimating the at least one direction or the at least one position of the at least one signal source based on results of the addition of the normalized cross correlation functions; and

wherein said estimation means determines the delay times with which the cross correlation functions added by said addition means exhibit maximum values for the individual combinations of said reception apparatus and sets the determined delay times as candidate delay times and then estimates the number and the at least one direction or directions or the at least one position or positions of the at least one signal source or sources with which the candidate delay times are provided most consistently.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Amended) A signal processing method ~~according to claim 18, for processing a~~
plurality of received signals obtained by receiving a signal or signals from at least one signal
source through a plurality of reception apparatus, comprising:

a first step of decomposing each of the received signals into a plurality of different
frequency band signals;

a second step of calculating cross correlation functions between the different frequency
band signals originating from two different ones of said reception apparatus for individual
corresponding frequency bands for individual possible combinations of said reception apparatus;
and

a third step of estimating at least one direction or at least one position of the at least one
signal source based on the cross correlation functions;

wherein the third step includes:

a maximum value detection step of determining delay times with which the cross
correlation functions exhibit maximum values for the individual frequency bands for the
individual combinations of the reception apparatus and setting the determined delay times as
candidate delay times; and

an estimation step of estimating the number and the at least one direction ~~or directions~~ or
the at least one position ~~or positions~~ of the at least one signal source ~~or sources~~ so that the
candidate delay times may be provided most consistently.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Amended) A signal processing method ~~according to claim 20~~, for processing a plurality of received signals obtained by receiving a signal or signals from at least one signal source through a plurality of reception apparatus, comprising:

a first step of decomposing each of the received signals into a plurality of different frequency band signals;

a first step of decomposing each of the received signals into a plurality of different frequency band signals;

a second step of calculating cross correlation functions between the different frequency band signals originating from two different ones of said reception apparatus for individual corresponding frequency bands for individual possible combinations of said reception apparatus;
and

a third step of estimating at least one direction or at least one position of the at least one signal source based on the cross correlation functions;

wherein the third step includes;

a normalization step of normalizing the cross correlation functions for the individual frequency bands;

an addition step of adding the cross correlation functions normalized for the individual combinations of said reception apparatus over all or some plurality of ones of the frequency bands; and

an estimation step of estimating the at least one direction or the at least one position of the at least one signal source based on results of the addition of the normalized cross correlation functions; and

wherein, in the estimation step, the delay times with which the cross correlation functions added by the addition step exhibit maximum values are determined for the individual combinations of said reception apparatus and the determined delay times are set as candidate delay times and then the number and the direction ~~or directions~~ or the at least one position ~~or positions~~ of the at least one signal source ~~or sources~~ with which the candidate delay times are provided most consistently are estimated.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)